

In the Specification:

On page 4, please replace the last three paragraphs with the following:

-- FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E and 1F provide the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:1 and 2) for romaine lettuce vde and deduced polypeptide sequence. The underlined sequences are those determined from peptide sequencing of purified lettuce vde. The polypeptide sequence begins at the first methionine of the open reading frame and is preceded by three termination codons in the same reading frame.

FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D provide the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:3 and 4) for tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* cv. Xanthi) vde and deduced polypeptide sequence.

FIGS. 3A, 3B and 3C provide the cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:5 and 6) for *Arabidopsis thaliana* (var. Columbia) vde and deduced polypeptide sequence.—

On page 5, please replace the first two paragraphs with the following:

--FIG. 4A provides a map showing the location of three domains in the deduced protein.

FIG. 4B provides a comparison of the amino acid sequences (SEQ ID NO:2, 4 and 6) of the proteins of Figures 1 – 3.

FIG. 5 shows the percent similarity between the proteins of Figures 1 – 3.--

REMARKS

Claims 3 - 5 and 9 - 11 are pending in the application.

The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner in regards to Figures 1 – 4. Formal drawings are submitted herewith and include the suggested changes to Figures 1 – 4 and Figure 8.